

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPRO, ID

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INDONESIAN BUSINESS PARTNER

1. WE WERE CALLED OCT 12 BY JAMES POORBAUGH, A BETHESDA, MARYLAND, BUILDER WHO HAS SPECIALIZED IN MANUFACTURE OF LOW-COST PREFABRICATED HOUSING USING SOLAR ENERGY EQUIPMENT. ONE PLANT HAS ALREADY BEEN SOLD TO SEARS ROEBUCK. HE HAS A RATHER IMAGINATIVE JOINT VENTURE PROPOSAL AND IS LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE INDONESIAN (PRIBUMI) PARTNER.

2. POORBAUGH'S VENTURE WOULD FEATURE A SEA-GOING, SELF-CONTAINED FACTORY CAPABLE OF PRODUCING ABOUT 100 KINDS OF PREFABRICATED HOUSING AND WAREHOUSING SYSTEMS IN WOOD, MASONRY AND ALUMINUM AND OF DELIVERING PREFABRICATED PARTS TO CONSTRUCTION SITES ASHORE WHERE LOCAL LABOR, TRAINED BY FACTORY STAFF IN ON-BOARD CLASSROOMS, WOULD ASSEMBLE. FACTORY BARGE WOULD HAVE ON-BOARD SHOPS CAPABLE OF FABRICATING REQUIRED ELECTRICAL AND SANITARY EQUIPMENT. BASIC STRUCTURAL MATERIAL WOULD BE POLYURETHANE PANELS COVERED WITH MARINE PLYWOOD. UP TO 2,000 STRUCTURES A YEAR COULD BE PRODUCED ON FACTORY BARGE, WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING BUILT ON FORMER TANKER HULL AND WHICH WILL HAVE A TEN-MAN

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COMPLEMENT DOUBLING IN BRASS AS CREW AND AS PRODUCTION

FORCE.

3. POORBAUGH POINTED UP UNUSUAL CAPABILITY OF HIS FLOAT-
ING FACTORY FOR RESPONDING TO ANY EMERGENCY NEED FOR
HOUSING AND STORAGE FACILITIES. ITS UTILITY IN AN ARCHI-
PELAGO STATE WOULD SEEM TO CONFER EXTRA ADVANTAGES.

4. WORLD BANK OFFICIALS ARE SAID TO BE INTERESTED IN
SUPPORTING POORBAUGH'S VENTURE WHEN IT IS FIRMED UP.

5. WHAT POORBAUGH WOULD LIKE NOW FROM EMBASSY AND
CONSULATE ARE THE NAMES OF SOME POSSIBLE PRIBUMI PARTNERS,

PREFERABLY WITH INTERESTS IN HOUSING SECTOR. HE WOULD
PREFER AT THIS STAGE THAT EMBASSY AND CONSULATE COMPOSE
THEIR LISTS FROM THEIR PRESENT KNOWLEDGE AND THAT THEY
NOT RPT NOT CONTACT ANY PROSPECTIVE PARTNER. WHEN
POORBAUGH HAS HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW LISTS, HE WILL THEN
MAKE CONTACT OR ASK EMBASSY/CONSULATE TO TAKE SOME
PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS. ROBINSON

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